United States Patent [19]

Hetherington et al.

[11] **4,175,702**

[45] **Nov. 27, 1979**

[54] **AIR NUCLEATING SPARY GUN**

[75] Inventors: **Robert D. Hetherington,** Sunland; **David W. Goelz,** Burbank, both of Calif.

[73] Assignee: **Poly-Glas Systems,** Sun Valley, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: **867,654**

[22] Filed: **Jan. 6, 1978**

[51] **Int. Cl.**[2] **B05B 7/08;** B05B 15/02

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **239/113;** 239/415; 239/419.3; 239/432; 239/528

[58] **Field of Search** 239/113, 296, 311, 369, 239/371, 407, 413–415, 416.1, 417.5, 419.3, 422, 424.5, 428–430, 432, 527, 528

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Primary Examiner—Johnny D. Cherry

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Jessup & Beecher

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A forced air nucleating jet gun assembly comprised of a nozzle body designed to atomize material at the nozzle for external mixing with a catalyst which is atomized in the handle body of the gun assembly. The nozzle body incorporates passageways for delivering atomizing air deflected counter to the path of a material delivered to a fluid tip. The fluid tip assembly is designed to deflect atomizing air into the path of the material for low-pressure delivery of resin to the jet. An air control valve is incorporated into the nozzle body and is operated sequentially with the material valve to purge the fluid tip prior to delivery or supply of material for atomizing by air. The forced air nucleating system incorporated in the nozzle body delivers resin and air or atomized resin through the fluid tip external mixing with catalyst.

23 Claims, 8 Drawing Figures

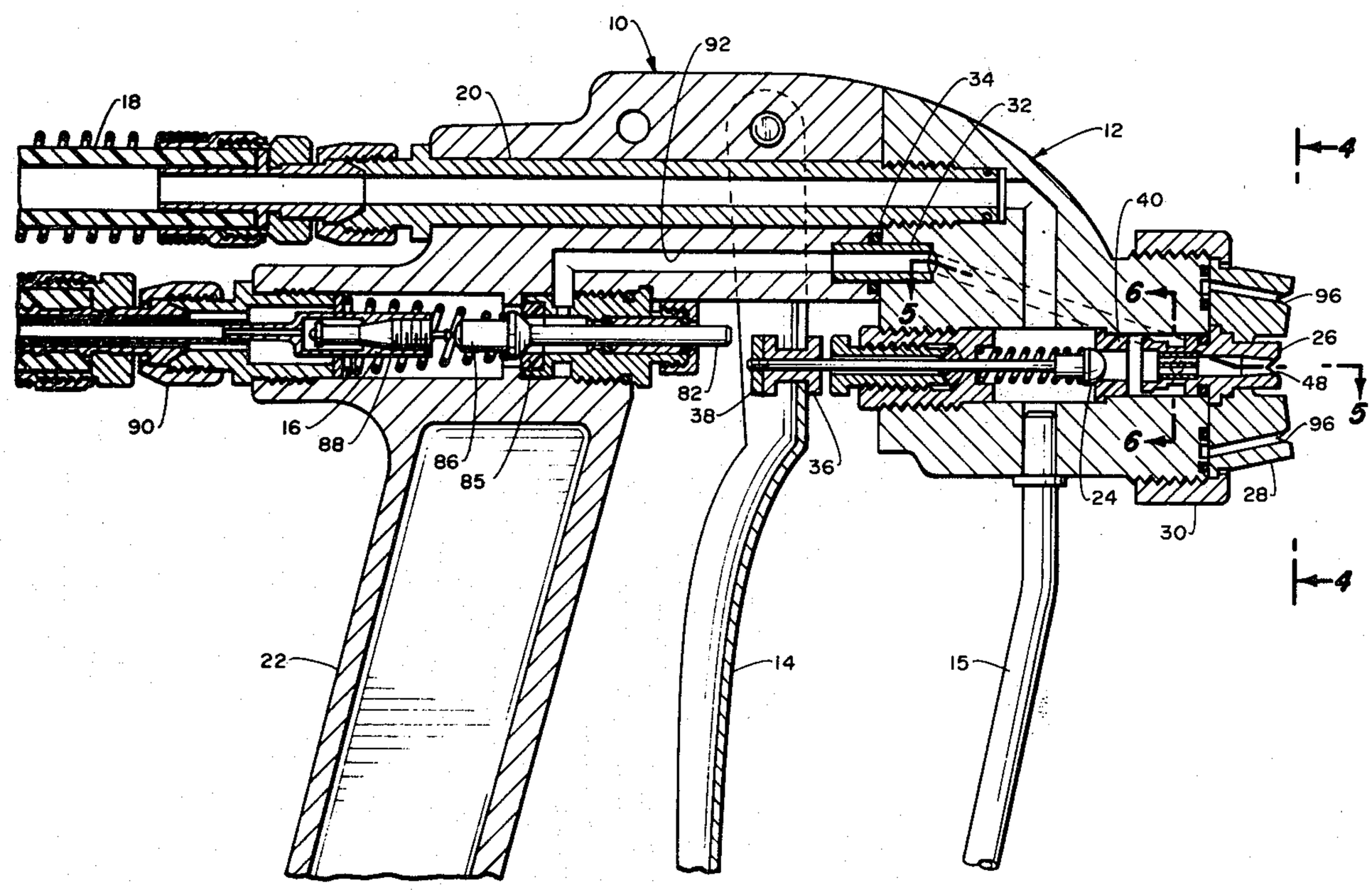


Fig. 1.

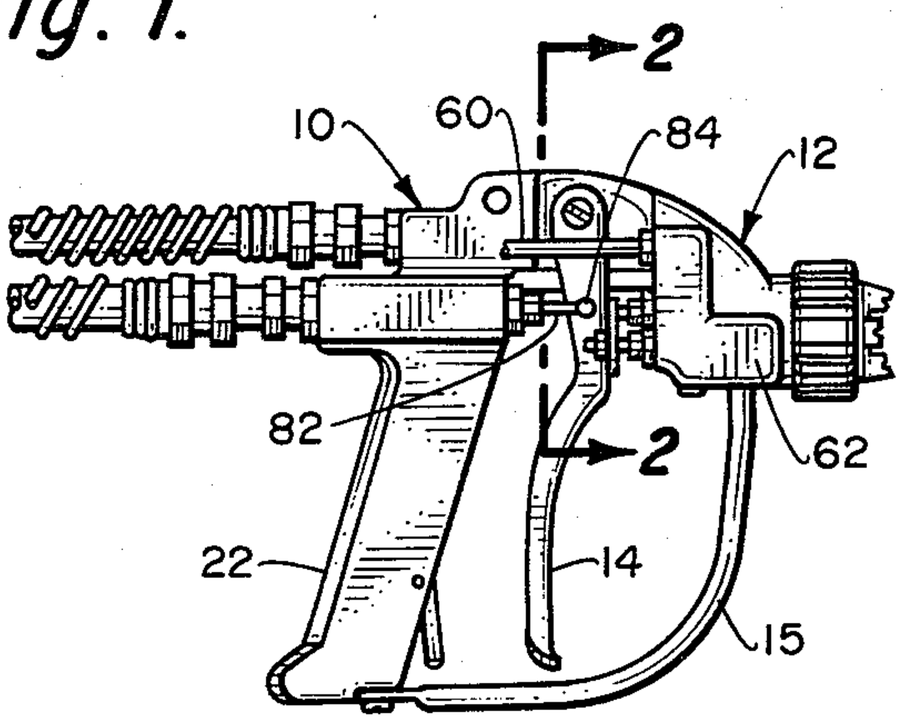


Fig. 2.

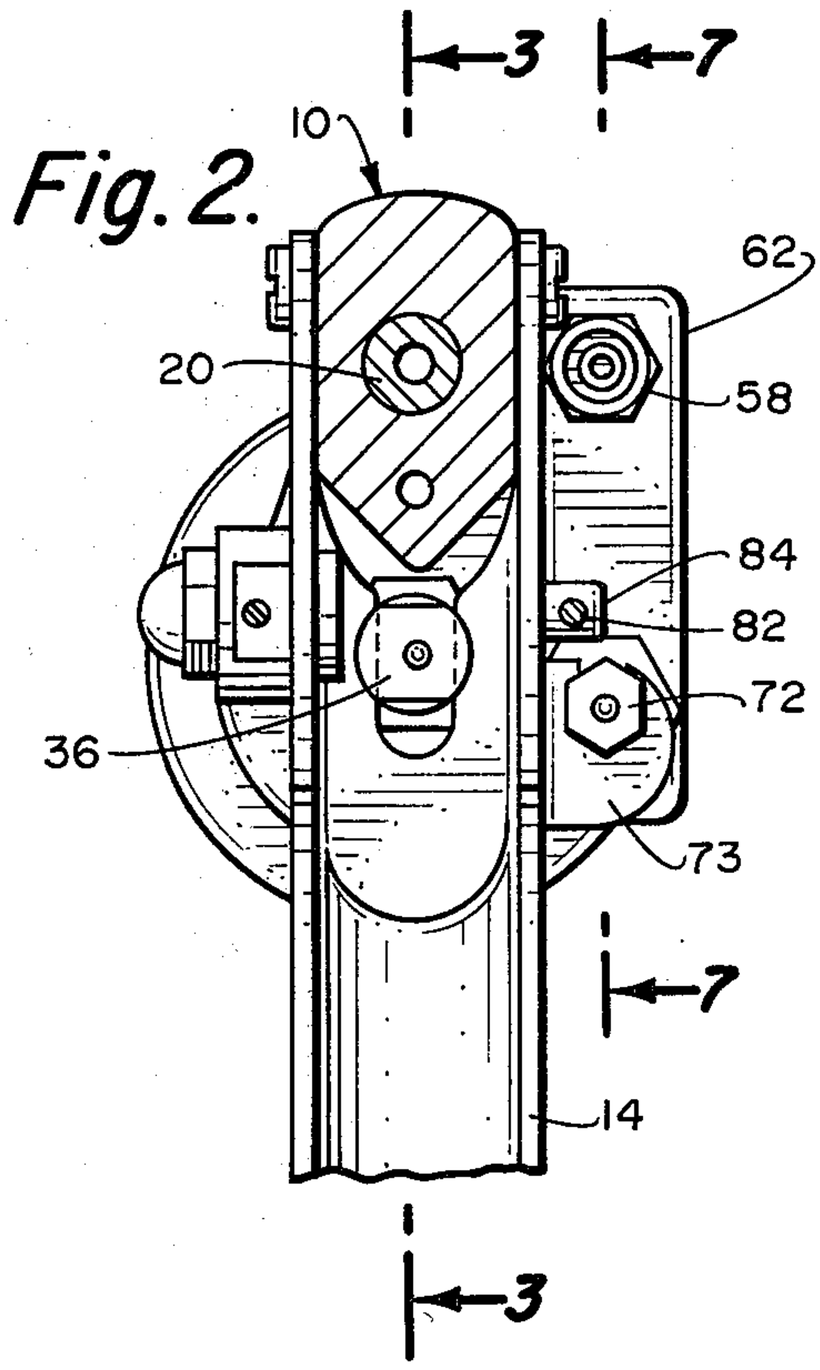


Fig. 4.

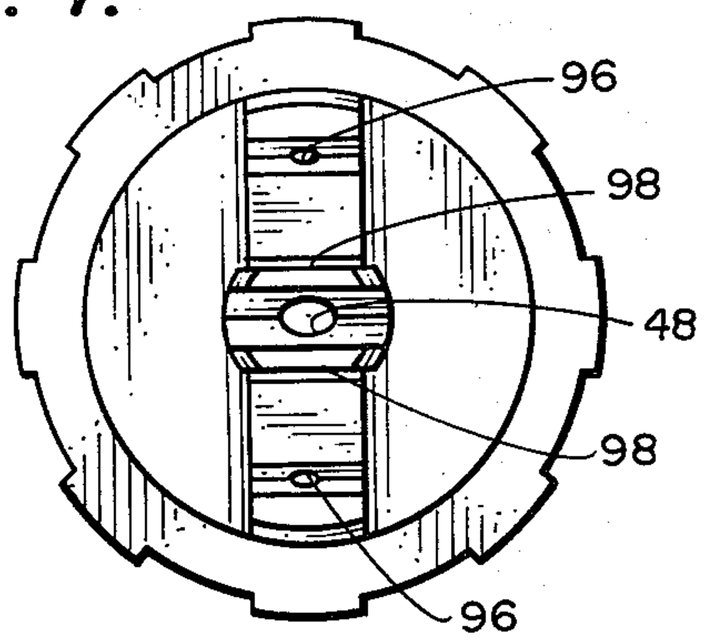
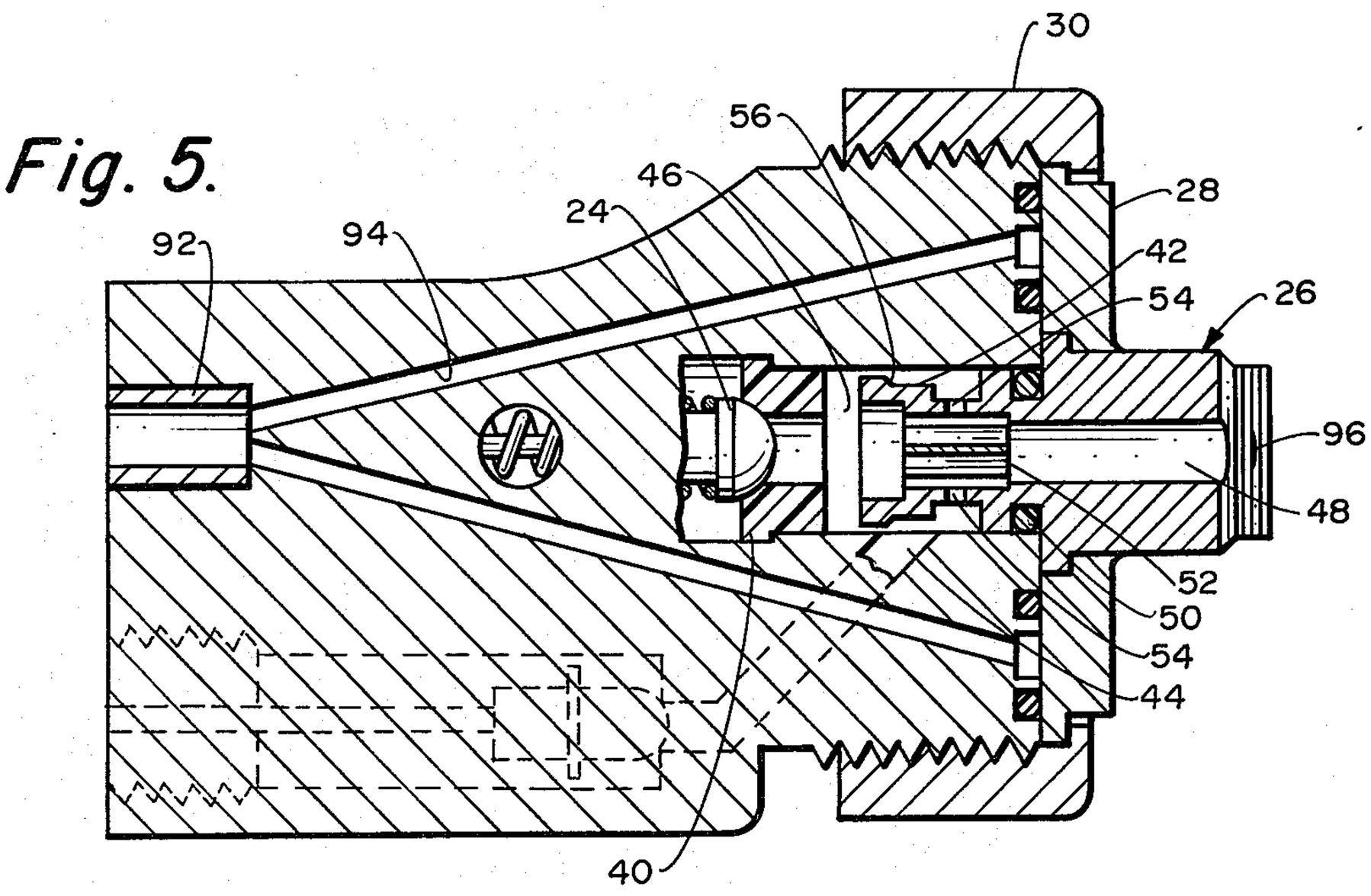


Fig. 5.



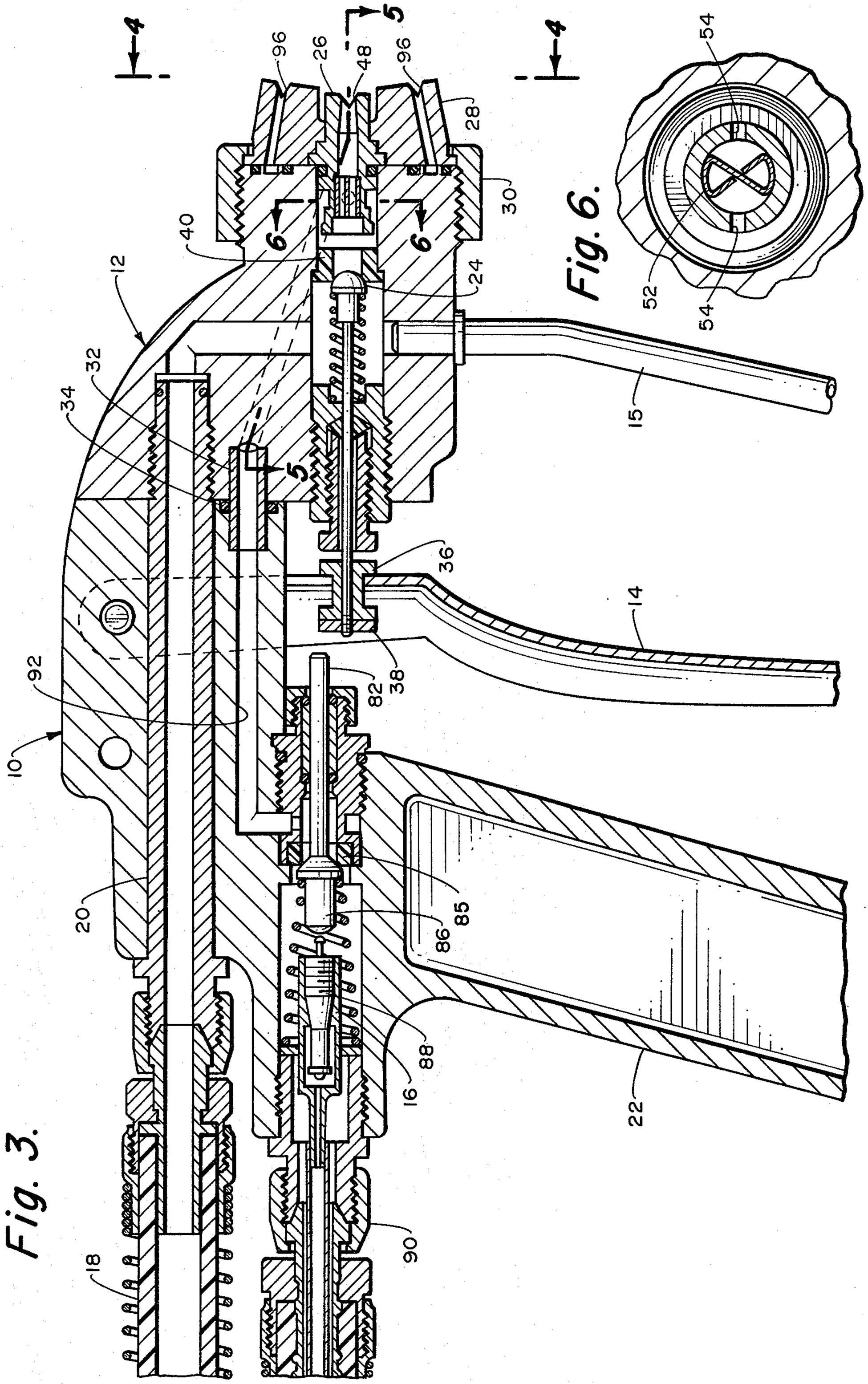

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Fig. 3.

Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

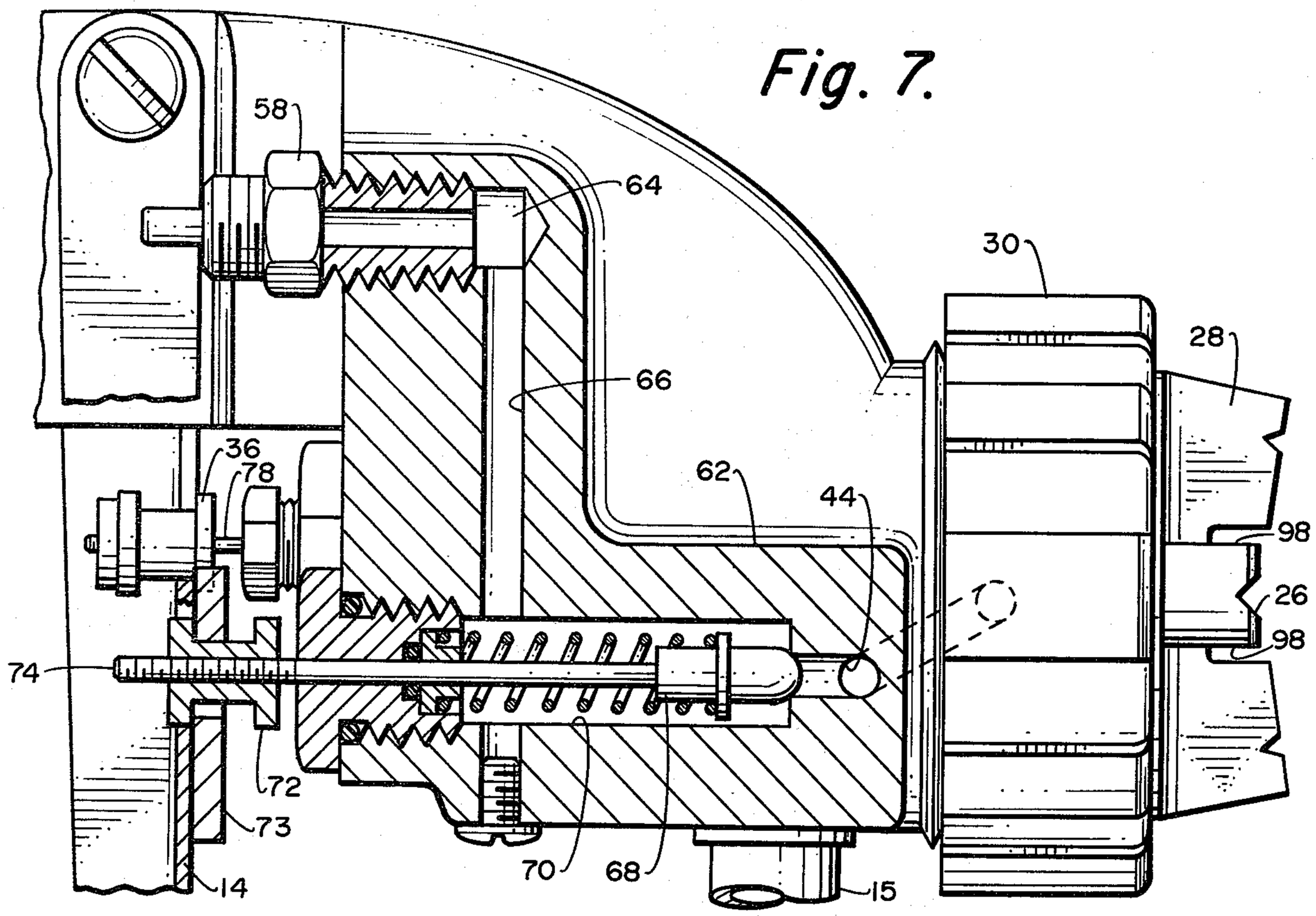
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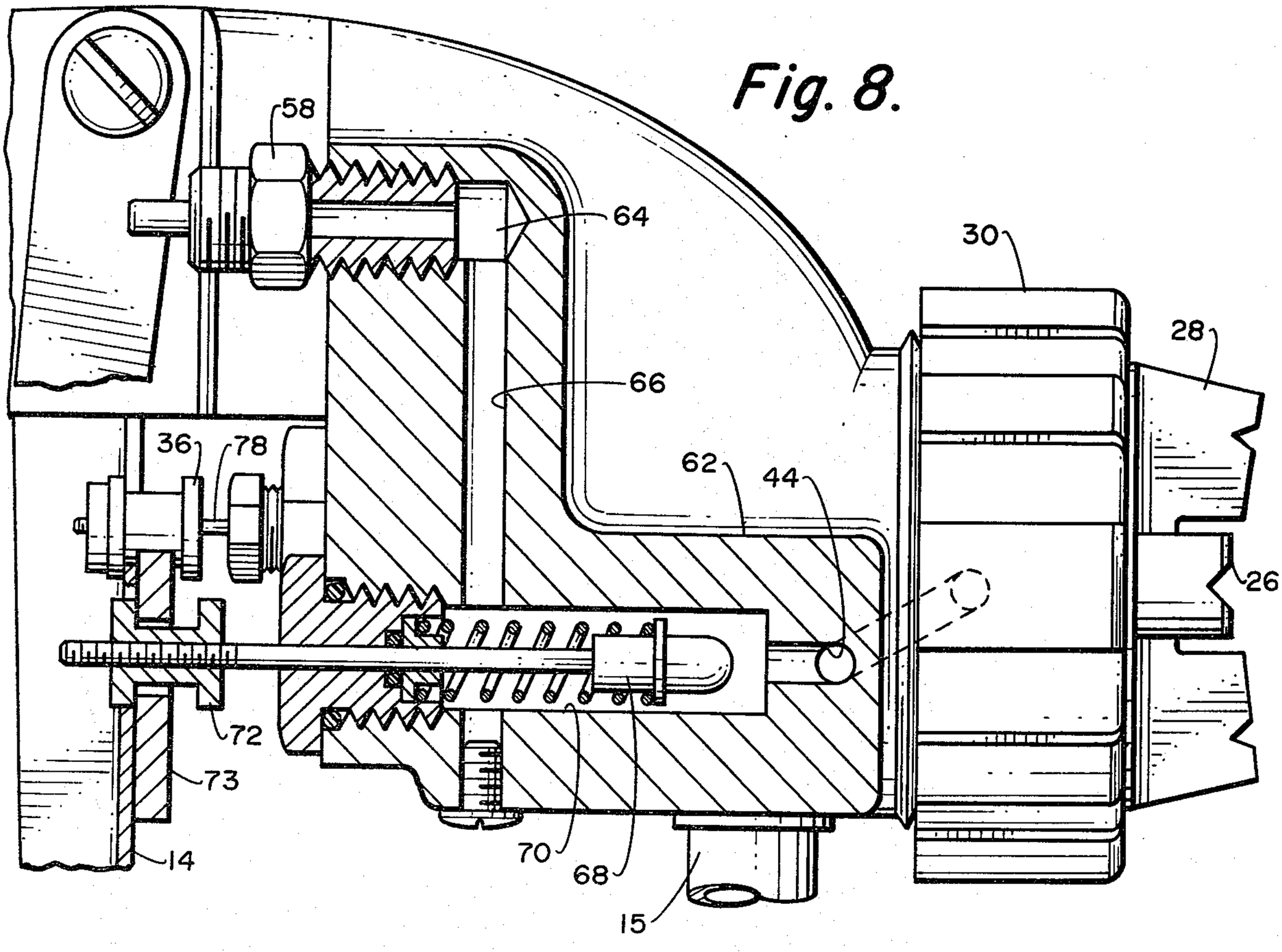
Fig. 8.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AIR NUCLEATING SPARY GUN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to plural component spray systems, and more particularly relates to a gun which provides external mixing of two components such as catalyst and resin.

In present plural component delivery and spraying systems, one or more of the components is delivered under high pressure to a nozzle for mixing with a catalyst. In addition to the inherent problems of utilizing airless high-pressure delivery systems, assuring a homogeneous mixture is difficult and cross-over of components can occur because of high pressures. The flushing with an expensive flammable solvent is necessary because with internal mixing there is a great chance of resin setup inside the gun from cross-feeding to catalyst passages which could severely damage the gun, or at least render the gun useless until clogged passageways are cleared. After resin has set up, cleaning can be a difficult and time-consuming process if not altogether impossible.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a plural component spraying system having an external mix spraying of plural components.

This invention is related to and can be used with the plural component spraying system of Charles R. Gardner, disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 739,667, filed Nov. 8, 1976, now U.S. Pat. No. 4,123,007.

The present invention provides an improvement in the invention disclosed in the above-identified application by providing a nozzle body assembly adaptable to the handle body of that invention which permits external mixing of plural components, such as catalyst and resin. The nozzle body of the present invention provides a passageway and control valve for delivering air to the material delivered to the nozzle at the outlet to the nozzle. In addition, the nozzle body assembly includes a fluid tip nozzle assembly having a deflecting means for deflecting air counter to the path of the material being delivered to the nozzle for atomizing the material prior to exiting from the nozzle. The forced air control valve incorporated into the nozzle body assembly is constructed to operate sequentially with a resin material delivery valve and permits purging of the fluid tip assembly prior to delivery of resin and after each use.

With the nozzle body assembly of the present invention, air is delivered to the fluid tip nozzle when the gun trigger is operated prior to delivery of the material or resin. Thus, the first position of the trigger purges the entire system with air. A second position of the trigger delivers material to the nozzle body assembly for atomizing by air just before exiting from the fluid tip. As the material enters the passageway adjacent to the fluid tip nozzle, the air delivery system forces air into the path of the material atomizing or nucleating it. The atomized material is then delivered to the fluid tip or jet for external mixing with a catalyst. Incorporated into the fluid tip assembly is a stabilizing vane which smooths out the turbulent flow of the resin or material caused by the nucleating air, producing an even spray to assure homogeneous mixing of catalyst and resin externally.

The important unique features of the present invention are a nozzle body assembly incorporating an air delivery system to provide forced air nucleation of a material such as resin before the material exits from a fluid tip for external mixing. Incorporated into the nozzle body assembly is a fluid tip assembly having conical means for deflecting air delivered to the nozzle body assembly into the path of resin or other material to atomize the material. The fluid tip assembly includes a stabilizing vane for smoothing out the flow after nucleation to assure a homogeneous spray and mix externally. The system also includes an air valve operated sequentially and prior to the operation of the material valve to purge and clean the fluid tip nozzle assembly before and after delivery of resin or other material.

Accordingly, it is one object of the present invention to provide a plural component spray gun which permits external mixing of plural components.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a plural component spray gun in which the plural components are delivered at low pressure.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a plural component spray gun having forced air nucleation of one of the materials near the fluid tip exit.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a plural component spray gun having external mixing at low pressure which eliminates the need for expensive flammable solvents for flushing.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a plural component spray gun in which the system is purged with air prior to and after delivery of the plural components.

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a plural component spray gun having an air delivery system in the nozzle body for nucleating resin immediately before delivering it to the fluid tip for external mixing.

Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numbers identify like parts throughout.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a side view of a plural component spray gun incorporating the invention.

FIG. **2** is a sectional view taken at **2—2** of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **3** is a sectional side view of the spray gun assembly of FIG. **1**.

FIG. **4** is an end view of the nozzle of the spray gun of FIG. **1** taken at **4—4** of FIG. **3**.

FIG. **5** is a sectional view taken at **5—5** of FIG. **3**.

FIG. **6** is a sectional view taken at **6—6** of FIG. **3**.

FIG. **7** is a sectional view taken at 7—7 of FIG. **2**.

FIG. **8** is a sectional view nearly identical with the sectional view of FIG. **7** showing the sequential valve operation.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A plural component spray gun is shown in FIG. **1** comprised of a handle body **10** and nozzle body **12** for supplying or spraying catalyst and resin. The handle body **10** is substantially the same as the handle body disclosed and claimed in application Ser. No. 739,667, filed Nov. 8, 1976, referred to above. The present invention provides an improvement over the prior art in

providing a nozzle body assembly **12** illustrated in FIGS. **3** through **8**.

Details of the handle body **10** and nozzle body assembly **12** are illustrated in the sectional side view of FIG. **3**. The handle body **10** has a trigger **14**, trigger guard **15** and core valve catalyst delivery system in chamber **16**, substantially the same as disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application. The nozzle body assembly **12**, however, has an internal air delivery system incorporated to provide for forced air nucleation of resin or other material delivered through hose **18** and connecting feed tube **20** to the nozzle body assembly **12**. The nozzle body assembly **12** has a resin valve **24** for controlling the flow of resin to fluid tip assembly **26** for external mixing with catalyst sprayed from catalyst nozzle **28**. Retaining ring **30** retains catalyst nozzle **28** and resin fluid tip nozzle assembly **26** securely to the nozzle body assembly **12**.

The nozzle body assembly **12** is attached to the handle body **10** by the feed tube **20** and is maintained in alignment by dowel tube **32** sealed by O-ring **34**. The resin valve **24** is controlled by a collet **36** engaging the trigger **14** attached to the valve **24** by the lock nut **38**. The valve **24** seals against valve seat **40** to stop the flow of resin to the fluid tip nozzle assembly **26**.

The fluid tip nozzle assembly **26** is shown in greater detail in the sectional view of FIG. **5**. The fluid tip nozzle assembly **26** has an air deflector **42** for forcing air delivered through passageway **44** against the path of material or resin entering chamber **46** when material valve **24** is opened. The air forced against the flow of the resin through valve **24** atomizes the resin for delivery through the elliptical orifice **48** in the fluid tip nozzle assembly **26**. The nozzle assembly **26** is held in place securely by the catalyst nozzle **28** and sealed by O-ring **50**.

In order to provide a uniform spray from the elliptical orifice or jet **48**, it is preferable to stabilize or smooth out the nucleated resin material after mixing with air in the chamber **46**. To accomplish this a stabilizing vane **52** is inserted in the passageway between the chamber **46** and the orifice **48**. The stabilizing vane **52** has a figure eight configuration as illustrated in FIG. **6**. After nucleation or atomizing of resin the chamber **46**, the vane **52** stabilizes and smooths out the turbulence created by the nucleating air providing a uniform even spray from orifice **48**. Stabilization of the nucleated resin is assisted by bleed-holes **54** which permit some air to enter the fluid tip perpendicular to the flow of the nucleated resin and intersect the vane **52** at right angles. The stabilizing vane **52** and bleed-holes **54** were found to provide an even distribution of nucleated resin for delivery to the orifice **48** for external mixing with a catalyst.

The fluid tip nozzle assembly **26** has an air-deflecting shank **42** which incorporates a conical flare **56** which forces the air outward against the flow of resin. The taper of the flare **56** can be provided at various degrees but an inclusive angle of approximately 45° is preferred.

Regulated air is supplied to the nozzle body **12** through a fitting **58** for connecting an air hose **60**. Air passageways to the fluid tip are provided in shoulder **62** (FIG. **2**) on the nozzle body **12** and are shown in greater detail in FIGS. **7** and **8**. Regulated air is supplied through fitting **58** to chamber **64** to passageway **66** leading to valve **68** in chamber **70**. Operation of valve **68** permits passage of regulated air to passageway **44**, leading to fluid tip assembly **26** and into the chamber **46** for nucleating the resin material.

The sequential operation of the air and material valves can be seen by referral to FIGS. **7** and **8**. In FIG. **7** the trigger is shown in its first position with the trigger engaging collet **72** attached to shaft **74** connected to valve **68**. As the trigger **14** is depressed, valve **68** opens (see FIG. **8**), allowing air to pass into passageway **44** into chamber **46** and out through orifice **48**, purging the nozzle and fluid tip assembly **26**. Continued depressing of the trigger **14** causes the trigger to engage a second collet **36** connected to resin valve **24** by shaft **78**. Continued depressing of the trigger then opens the resin valve **24**, allowing material to flow through valve seat **40** (FIG. **5**) into chamber **46** for mixing with air from the air supply system.

Initial movement of the trigger **14** not only operates valve **68**, but also causes the trigger to engage pushrod **82** by means of knob **84** (FIG. **1**). The operation of the air in the catalyst delivery system can be seen more clearly in FIG. **3**, wherein push rod **82** is dislodged from valve seat **85** before the shank **86** engages core valve **88**, thus permitting air to also purge the catalyst supply passages and catalyst nozzle **28**. Thus, the spray gun disclosed purges the passages with air prior to initiating delivery of catalyst and resin to the nozzles **26** and **28**.

The operation of the forced air nucleating system when used in conjunction with the plural component system referred to in the above-identified pending patent application is as follows. Depressing of the trigger operates the air valve **68** in the nozzle body **12** and also operates the push rod **82**, permitting air to purge the system as described hereinbefore. Continued depressing of the trigger **14** operates resin material valve **24** and core valve **88** permitting catalyst and resin to be delivered to the nozzles **26** and **28**. As the shank **86** of the push rod **82** engages the core valve **88**, catalyst is permitted to flow into the chamber **16** for mixture with air initially delivered through the outside hose of coaxial hose connecting system **90** for mixture with the catalyst in chamber **16** and delivery to the catalyst nozzle **28**, through passageways **92** and **94** (FIG. **5**) to the catalyst nozzle **28**. Simultaneously resin material is delivered to the nozzle body **12** through hose **18**, feed tube **20**, and resin valve **24**, to chamber **46** for mixture with air and delivery through fluid tip nozzle assembly **26**. The force air nucleation system can also be used with a spray gun where the catalyst is not atomized in the gun, such as an atomized tank.

The catalyst spray is delivered in a fan-shaped pattern from the two catalyst jets **96** which intersect a fan-shaped resin pattern from the orifice **48** a short distance in front of the spray gun. The fan-shaped pattern from the catalyst nozzle **28** and resin fluid tip assembly **26** in the position shown will be horizontal and can be changed to any plane by loosening retaining ring **30** and rotating the nozzle assembly **26** and catalyst nozzle **28** to the desired spraying position. Flats **98** on nozzle assembly **26** engage similar flat portions of the catalyst nozzle **28** for rotation therewith. Thus, when the catalyst nozzle **28** is rotated in any direction, the fluid tip **26** rotates with it, thereby maintaining the orientation of the two nozzles and the fan-shaped pattern of the catalyst and resin for any desired position.

This simplifies use of the spray gun and permits spraying at any position without the user twisting and turning, which can result in a great deal of fatigue. Thus, if the user wishes to adjust the spray pattern to be at an angle or vertical, he simply loosens retaining ring or nut **30**, rotates the catalyst nozzle **28** from the posi-

tion shown 90° and retightens the retaining ring. This will then produce a vertical fan-shaped spray pattern with the intersection of the catalyst and atomized resin being maintained a short distance from the nozzle for external mixing.

Operation of the air supply valve **68** is achieved through a flange or plate **73** attached to the trigger **14** and engaging the collet **72** attached to the shaft **74** connected to operate the air valve.

Thus, there has been disclosed a plural component low-pressure spray gun allowing external mixing of two components in a predetermined fan-shaped pattern which may be varied to any angle from vertical to horizontal. The forced air nucleating nozzle body of this invention permits the elimination of high pressures allowing low-pressure external mixing of plural components. The forced air nucleating jet spray gun of the present invention is readily adaptable with only slight modification to existing equipment where solvent flushing is undesirable and is constructed for ease of operation, low maintenance and simplicity.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that the full scope of the invention is not limited to the details disclosed herein and may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed is:

1. In a spray gun having a handle body with a trigger for controlling the flow of plural components supplied to one or more nozzles the improvement comprising:
- a nozzle body attached to said handle body;
- a plurality of nozzles attached to said nozzle body, each of said nozzles adapted to spray a separate component;
- atomizing means for atomizing one of said components at the outlet to one of said nozzles; and
- said atomizing means including deflecting means for creating turbulent flow for mixing said component with forced air before delivery to said nozzle.

2. The spray gun according to claim **1** wherein said deflecting means deflects said forced air into the path of said component thereby creating said turbulent flow.

3. The spray gun according to claim **2** wherein said deflecting means deflects said forced air counter to the flow of said component.

4. The spray gun according to claim **3** wherein said deflecting means comprises:
- a shank on said one nozzle adjacent to a passageway supplying air to said atomizing means.

5. The spray gun according to claim **4** wherein said shank is conically tapered outward.

6. The spray gun according to claim **5** wherein said taper has an inclusive angle of approximately 45°.

7. The spray gun according to claim **4** including:
- stabilizing means inside said nozzle shank for stabilizing the flow of said atomized component after mixing with air.

8. The spray gun according to claim **7** wherein said stabilizing means comprises a stabilizing vane inserted in the nozzle passageway in said shank.

9. The spray gun according to claim **8** including:
- at least one air bleed hole in said shank for injecting a small amount of air into said atomized component flowing through said nozzle.

10. The spray gun according to claim **9** including:
- a pair of bleed holes in said shank;
- said bleed holes being positioned so that the bleed air intersects the stabilizing vane.

11. The spray gun according to claim **8** wherein said stabilizing vane has a cross-sectional figure eight shape.

12. The spray gun according to claim **1** including:
- a first valve for controlling the supply of said component to said atomizing means;
- a second valve for controlling the flow of air to said atomizing means; and
- sequential control means for sequentially operating said second valve before said first valve whereby the nozzle body is purged with regulated air prior to receiving any component material.

13. The spray gun according to claim **12** wherein said sequential control means comprises:
- a first adjustable collet on said component valve engaging the trigger;
- a second adjustable collet on said air valve engaging the trigger; and
- said collets being adjusted so that the trigger contacts said second collet a predetermined distance before contacting said first collet.

14. A plural component spraying system comprising:
- a spray gun body;
- a nozzle body attached to said gun body;
- a nozzle assembly having a plurality of nozzles attached to said nozzle body;
- supply means for supplying a first air atomized component to one of said nozzles;
- supply means for supplying a second component to another of said nozzles;
- atomizing means for atomizing said second component at the outlet to said other nozzle; and
- said atomizing means including deflecting means for creating turbulent flow whereby said second component is mixed with said forced air before delivery to said other nozzle.

15. The spraying system according to claim **14** wherein said air supply means comprises:
- connecting means for connecting an air supply directly to said nozzle body;
- an air passageway in said nozzle body from said connecting means intersecting said second component supply means near said other nozzle;
- valve means in said passageway for controlling the flow of air;
- said deflecting means being at the intersection of said passageway and said second component supply for deflecting the air counter to the flow of said second component.

16. The spraying system according to claim **15** including:
- valve means for controlling the flow of said second component to said other nozzle,
- said air passageway intersecting said second component supply means downstream of said second component valve means.

17. The spraying system according to claim **16** including:
- valve operating means for operating air and second component valve means;
- said valve operating means including means for opening the air valve means in advance of the opening of said second component valve means whereby said nozzle assembly is purged with air prior to the flow of said second component.

18. The spraying system according to claim **14** wherein said deflecting means comprises an outward

flared member at the intersection of said air passageway and second component supply means whereby air is deflected outwardly counter to the flow of said second component.

19. The spraying system according to claim **18** including at least one aperture in said flared member whereby a portion of said air is injected perpendicular to the flow of said atomized second component.

20. The spray gun according to claim **18** including:

stabilizing means inside said flared member for stabilizing the flow of said atomized second component after mixing with air.

21. The spary gun according to claim **20** wherein said stabilizing means comprises a stabilizing vane inserted in the nozzle passageway in said flared member.

22. The spray gun according to claim **21** including:

at least one air bleed hole in said flared member injecting a small amount of air into said atomized second component flowing through said other nozzle.

23. The spray gun according to claim **22** including:

a pair of bleed holes in said flared member; and

said bleed holes being positioned so that the bleed air intersects the stabilizing vane.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 4175702

DATED : NOVEMBER 27, 1979

INVENTOR(S) : ROBERT D. HETHERINGTON ET AL

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

In the title, "SPARY" should be - SPRAY - .

Column 4, line 44 "force" should be - forced - .

Signed and Sealed this

Seventeenth Day of *June 1980*

[SEAL]

Attest:

SIDNEY A. DIAMOND

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks